

X.—*Description of a New Genus of Perciform Fishes from the Cape of Good Hope*.—By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

(With Plate IX.)

ATYPOSOMA, g. n.

Body compressed; scales small, finely ciliated; lateral line complete. Mouth large, moderately protractile; maxillary large, exposed; jaws equal, with a band of small villiform teeth; preopercle very finely serrated; no opercular spine. Gill-membranes separate; seven branchiostegals; gill-rakers very long. A single dorsal, with 11 spines and 17 soft rays, the spinous portion well developed, but shorter than the soft; anal with 3 spines and 14 soft rays; soft dorsal and anal thickly covered with small scales. Caudal forked. Pectoral with 17 rays, asymmetrical, rounded, upper rays longest. Ventrals behind base of pectorals, close together, with a strong spine.

This genus, referable to the Scorpionine *Squamipinnes*, is nearest allied to *Atypichthys*, Günther, from which it is distinguished by the large mouth and large maxillary. I regret to be unable to say anything of the palatal dentition, the palate being absent in the stuffed specimen.

ATYPOSOMA GURNEYI, sp. n.

Depth of body $2\frac{1}{2}$ times in total length, length of head $3\frac{3}{4}$. Diameter of eye 5 times in length of head, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in interorbital width; maxillary scaly, extending to below anterior third of eye, the diameter of its distal extremity $\frac{3}{4}$ that of eye; preopercular border forming a right angle, rounded and very finely serrated at the angle; head nearly entirely covered with very small scales. Dorsal xi 17, originating above base of ventral; spines rather strong, 3rd

to 6th longest, $\frac{1}{3}$ length of head, nearly twice as long as soft rays, which are all equal in length. Anal iii 14; 2nd and 3rd spines equal, $\frac{1}{4}$ length of head, $1\frac{1}{2}$ as long as the soft rays. Pectoral $\frac{1}{2}$ length of head, slightly shorter than ventral; latter reaching vent. Caudal deeply forked, middle rays $\frac{1}{4}$ length of outer. Caudal peduncle twice as long as deep. Scales $150\frac{2.5}{6.0}$; lat. l. 70. Silvery; dark purplish grey on the back; lateral line, dorsal and anal fins, and caudal fin blackish; tips of longest dorsal spines white; pectorals grey; ventrals white.

Total length 450 mm.

I am indebted to Mr. W. L. Slater for the loan of the single specimen, now in a stuffed condition. It was caught by a trawler in False Bay, and presented to the South African Museum by Lieut.-Commr. A. F. Gurney, R.N.

Parascorpiis, Blkr., likewise from the Cape of Good Hope, and known to me only from the description and figure, appears to be related to this genus, so that its allocation to the *Scorpidina*, as proposed by Bleeker, may after all be correct. But it differs generically in the presence of an opercular spine and the reversed proportions of the two divisions of the dorsal fin. So far as specific characters go, *Parascorpiis typus* differs abundantly in the number of dorsal rays (xii 15), the shorter dorsal spines, the longer second anal spine, the narrower and serrated preorbital, the more strongly serrated preopercle, the more prominent chin, and the feebly notched caudal fin. The spinous dorsal and the caudal fins are represented as covered with scales, which is not the case in the fish here described.